

**Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee**  
**Usual care of chronic wounds**  
**March 29, 2005**

1. Usual care for chronic wounds<sup>1</sup> commonly includes debridement, cleansing, dressing, compression, antibiotics and off-loading.
  - a. Is there sufficient evidence to assess the health benefit of these modalities?
  - b. Are there other modalities that provide a health benefit?
2. Using complete healing as the desired outcome, the following process measures are commonly used to assess healing of chronic wounds:
  - Time to complete healing
  - Partial healing rate
  - Recurrence
  - Elimination of infection
  - Amputation
  - Reduction of pain
  - Resumption of normal activity
  - a. Are these appropriate main or intermediate outcome measures to be considered when assessing the benefits of usual care of chronic wounds?
  - b. Are there other outcome measures that should be considered?
  - c. As new technologies arise, are new outcomes needed to demonstrate a benefit in the treatment of chronic wounds?
3. Based on evidence reviewed, how likely is it that the treatments discussed in Question 1 will positively affect the outcomes discussed in Question 2?
4. Based on the evidence reviewed, do the treatments reviewed in Question 1, singly or in combination, produce clinically significant net health benefits in the treatment of chronic wounds?
5. Based on the evidence reviewed, how likely is it that usual care used to treat chronic wounds can be generalized to:
  - a. The Medicare population (aged 65+)
  - b. Providers (facilities/physicians) in community practice
6. What are the knowledge gaps in current evidence pertaining to the usual care of chronic wounds?
7. What trial designs will support the development of sufficient evidence to determine the appropriate treatment of chronic wounds? What units of analysis and covariates can be considered?

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<sup>1</sup> Chronic wounds are wounds taking longer than 30 days for complete healing. For purposes of this meeting, the wounds under consideration are venous ulcers, arterial ulcers, pressure ulcers and diabetic ulcers.